

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUNICH 01310 041559Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----050220Z 128450 /66
R 041530Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8448

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 1310

EXDIS

STADIS//////////

FOR EUR/ARMITAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT RFE/RL

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. MEMBERS OF RFE/RL AMERICAN MANAGEMENT HERE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT RUMORS OF MAJOR CHANGES IN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF RFE/RL OPERATIONAL HEAD-QUARTERS IN MUNICH. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO INFORM DEPARTMENT AND, THROUGH DEPARTMENT BIB, OF THESE RUMORS AND TO CONVEY CONGEN'S VIEWS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF PAST WEEK CONGEN HAS BECOME AWARE OF PERSISTENT RUMOR THAT POSITIONS OF DIRECTOR OF RFE AND DIRECTOR OF RL ARE TO BE ELIMINATED AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR EUROPEAN OPERATIONS IS TO BE GIVEN SUBSTANTIVE DEPUTY WHO WOULD OVERSEE ALL POLICY/PROGRAM OPERATIONS OF RADIOS. CLOSELY RELATED RUMOR HAS IT THAT RADIOS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE MAJOR COMPONENTS FOR BROADCASTING PURPOSES: (A) RUSSIAN SERVICE; (B) A SOVIET NATIONALITIES SERVICE; AND (C) RFE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MUNICH 01310 041559Z

3. ACCORDING TO A COROLLARY RUMOR, PRESENT RFE DIRECTOR HEMSING, WHOSE CONTRACT REPORTEDLY EXPIRES ON MAY 15, WILL BE TERMINATED AT THAT TIME. THIS RUMOR IS WIDESPREAD AND, IN VIEW OF SOME PEOPLE AT RFE, QUITE CREDIBLE. THE FACT THAT RFE/RL, INC. HAS NAMED NO REPEAT NO REPLACEMENT FOR RONALDS AS RL DIRECTOR IS BEING CITED AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT A

MAJOR REORGANIZATION ALONG LINES OF PARA 1 IS IN OFFING.

4. A DEBATE ON VALUE AND PROPER ROLE OF RESEARCH AT BOTH RADIOS, ESPECIALLY RELEVANCE OF RESEARCH TO BROADCASTING, IS ALSO UNDERWAY. RUMORS OF CUTTING SLOTS FROM "SUPPORT" OPERATION LIKE RESEARCH AND GIVING THEM TO BROADCASTING UNITS ARE RIFE. THESE RUMORS ARE, IN TURN, BEING LINKED TO RUMORS OF MAJOR REORGANIZATION.

5. CONGEN IS NOT REPEAT NOT IN POSITION TO DETERMINE DEGREE TO WHICH THESE RUMORS REFLECT ACTUAL INTENTIONS OF RFE/RL TOP MANAGEMENT. WE ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN, OF RFE/RL WASHINGTON OFFICE. MEMBERS OF RFE/RL MANAGEMENT HERE ARE LINKING THESE RUMORS TO NEW EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT BUCHAN.

6. IN CONGEN'S VIEW, CHANGES AS SWEEPING AS THOSE OUTLINED IN PARA 1 SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY RFE/RL MANAGEMENT ONLY AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH BIB. (WE ASSUME, OF COURSE, THAT BIB WOULD SEEK DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON SUCH CHANGES.) DEPARTMENT MAY, THEREFORE, WISH TO CONSULT WITH BIB STAFF TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE AWARE OF THESE RUMORED CHANGES.

7. CONGEN BELIEVES IDEA OF ELIMINATING POSITIONS OF RFE DIRECTOR AND RL DIRECTOR AND DIVISION OF RADIOS INTO THREE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ENTITIES WOULD HAVE SERIOUS DISADVANTAGES. FIRST, A DEPUTY TO BUCHAN WOULD SIMPLY NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME OR ENERGY TO DEAL INTELLIGENTLY WITH THE DAILY POLICY AND PROGRAMMING PROBLEMS OF 21 OR 22-ODD LANGUAGE SERVICES BROADCASTING TO EE AND USSR. SECONDLY, WE THINK MANAGEMENT SHOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MUNICH 01310 041559Z

WORK TO PROMOTE CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIAN SERVICE AND SOVIET NATIONALITY SERVICES; FORMAL SEPARATION OF THESE OPERATIONS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT SERVE THIS PURPOSE. (WHAT, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BECOME OF RL'S POLICY OFFICE UNDER SUCH A SCHEME?) FINALLY, TASK OF BRINGING RESEARCH CLOSER TO BROADCASTING MIGHT WELL BE COMPLICATED BY ELIMINATION OF RFE AND RL DIRECTORS AND TRANSFER OF TASK OF COORDINATING BROADCASTING AND RESEARCH TO HIGHER LEVEL IN MANAGERIAL STRUCTURE.

8. IF RUMORS ARE CORRECT, AND IF, DESPITE CONSIDERATIONS IN PARA 6, RFE/RL TOP MANAGEMENT DECIDES TO MAKE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES OF TYPE OUTLINED IN PARA 1, CONGEN URGES THAT THESE CHANGES NOT REPEAT NOT BE SPRUNG ON RADIO MANAGEMENT HERE, BUT INSTEAD BE IMPLEMENTED ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSULTATION.

BETTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, REORGANIZATIONS, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MUNICH01310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770157-0358
Format: TEL
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770596/aaaademx.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 125a8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2645265
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT RFE/RL
TAGS: SOPN, GE, RFE, RL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/125a8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009